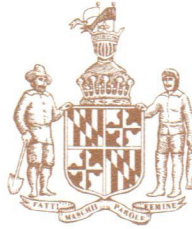


**ROBERT G. CASSILLY**  
*Legislative District 34*  
Harford County

Judicial Proceedings Committee

Joint Committee on Administrative,  
Executive, and Legislative Review

Joint Committee on Federal Relations



**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
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February 5, 2021

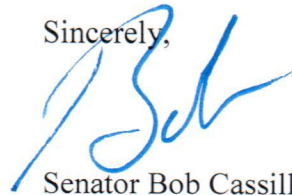
**RE: Senate Bill 388 – Vehicle Registration – Disability Plates – Parking Meter Fees**

Dear Committee Members:

I request your support for SB 388. Under the current law, an individual confined to a wheelchair is not required to feed a parking meter installed by a local jurisdiction. Some local jurisdictions have installed electronic parking machines that issue parking tickets which the driver purchases from a machine and then places on their vehicle dashboard. Those machines are usually installed such that they are capable of being operated by a handicapped person who is sitting in front of the machine. Some local jurisdictions are now ticketing handicapped vehicles because, they contend, the prohibition on ticketing handicapped vehicles for not feeding parking meters does not apply where the parking ticket machines can be operated by the handicapped. These jurisdictions rely for their position on current state law which allows that tickets can be issued to handicapped drivers where the parking meter “meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.” for the handicapped meters. However, there are no federal requirements to make parking meters suitable for the handicapped so local jurisdictions automatically comply with the non-existent federal regulations when they install a single ticket dispenser that complies with federal standards for centralized machines. Under this local interpretation of state law, a wheelchair confined driver who wants to avoid a ticket must park their vehicle, move their wheelchair from their vehicle, move their body from their vehicle into their wheelchair, maneuver to the nearest sidewalk access ramp, proceed to the parking ticket

dispensing machine, purchase a ticket, roll back to the nearest sidewalk ramp, move from the wheelchair back into the vehicle, place a parking receipt on the vehicle dashboard, move from the vehicle back into the wheelchair, and maneuver back to the nearest sidewalk access ramp. This level of difficulty is sufficiently extreme to dissuade those drivers confined to wheelchairs from accessing destinations that are otherwise available to the general public. If this bill is approved, wheelchair bound drivers would not be required to operate a meter under such difficult circumstances and would be encouraged to move about as intended by the federal and state laws addressing freedom of the handicapped.

Sincerely,



Senator Bob Cassilly